

# ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS

AND

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## A New Lycosid from Nevada.

By RALPH V. CHAMBERLIN.

(Plate 1)

Three species belonging to the genus *Schizocosa* have heretofore been known; namely *ocrcata* Hentz, *saltatrix* Hentz and *bilincata* Emerton. *Ocrcata* and *saltatrix* range from New England south to the Gulf of Mexico and westward into the Mississippi valley; while *bilincata*, having the same range westward, appears not to have been recorded from south of the District of Columbia. The author was much interested at finding a fourth species in the Great Basin region during the past summer (1909). The new species possesses all the characteristic structural features of the genus as drawn from the previously known forms. In general aspect it most suggests *ocrcata*, though in coloration it is more like *bilincata*. The structure of the genitalia of male and female is clearly distinctive. The male agrees with these of *ocrcata* and *bilincata* in having on the anterior tibiae a dense covering of black

hair which stands out upon the surface like the bristles on a brush, a peculiar feature, the significance of which is at present wholly problematical. *Saltatrix* (the male of which Hentz figures as (*venustula*) is thus alone in the genus in lacking this brush-like structure. In the new species the femur, patella and metatarsi, as well as the tibia, have the tegument black. The following key may facilitate the separation of the four species.

#### MALES.

1. First tibia clothed densely with black hair standing out in brush-like form . . . . . 2.  
     First tibiae not so clothed . . . . . **saltatrix** Hentz.
2. Legs all distinctly annulate; sternum dark . . . . . **ocreata** Hentz.  
     Legs not all annulate; sternum yellow . . . . . 3.
3. Tegument of femur, patella and metatarsi as well as tibia, of anterior legs, black; metatarsus of fourth legs distinctly annulate with dark . . . . . **celerior** sp. nov.  
     Tegument of femora, patella and metatarsus of first legs not so colored; metatarsus of fourth legs not distinctly annulate with dark . . . . . **bilineata** Emerton.

#### FEMALES.

1. Sternum yellow, either with or without two rows of dark spots converging caudad . . . . . 2.  
     Sternum dark, reddish brown to black . . . . . 3.
2. Cephalothorax more than 4 mm. long; metatarsi of fourth legs distinctly annulate with black . . . . . **celerior** sp. nov.  
     Cephalothorax less than 4 mm. long; metatarsi of fourth legs not annulate, all legs without annulations . . . . . **bilineata** Emerton.
3. Guide of epigynum much wider immediately in front of transverse arms than between anterior and posterior divisions of these arms; anterior portion of septum not sinuous. . . . . **ocreata** Hentz.  
     Portion of guide or septum between anterior and posterior divisions of transverse arms much wider than immediately in front of arms; septum sinuous or bent near anterior end.  
     . . . . . **saltatrix** Hentz.

#### **Schizocosa celerior** sp. nov.

*Female*.—Cephalothorax with a rather narrow blackish brown stripe in the tegument each side and meeting its fellow across the face; eyes surrounded with black; the lateral dark lines leave between them a median longitudinal band of yellow which extends cephalad as a narrow tongue between eyes of second and third rows behind the latter abruptly expanding to the width of the row, indented on each side a

little in front of the dorsal groove and then weakly narrowing to posterior border where it ends truncately and is limited by a black transverse marginal line; below the lateral dark bands the cephalothorax is yellow with, a little above each margin a black line which may not extend cephalad upon the pars cephalica, usually a row of small dark dots below this line and in some a few similar dots above it; clypeus marked below each anterior lateral eye with a trinagular black spot, the two tending to be confluent across the middle; the median and lateral light bands of the cephalothorax densely clothed in life with bright white or grey hair, that of the median band extending over the pars cephalica and down the face to the first eye row. Tegument of the chelicerae reddish brown, a dusky stripe down the interior face of each; clothed with light hair intermixed with darker bristles. Endites and labium yellow. Sternum and coxae of legs clear yellow, clothed in life with white or light grey hair. Legs yellow, without distinct annuli excepting on the metatarsi of the fourth legs, each of which bears a distinct black annulus at its distal end and less strongly marked ones at middle and at proximal end, though in some there are indications on femora of obscure annuli detectable under lens. Tegument of *abdomen* grey; black v-shaped stripe on anterior face, one arm of which passes over each lateral angle upon lateral portion of dorsum, there immediately diffusing into a wider longitudinal band formed of black streaks and dots which form a mesh-work dorsally, but which ventrad become isolated and more and more sparse; these lateral dark bands extending caudad to the spinnerets leave a median dorsal light band in the anterior portion of which is a lanceolate dark outline from back of the middle of each side of which extends a dark line caudo-laterad into the dark band, a similar pair of lines from apex forming a chevron mark which is followed caudad by several similar marks; the lines forming the lanceolate and chevron marks are more or less broken, and in the spaces between them are a number of small black dots; venter clear grey, without any markings; epigynum reddish; spinnerets yellowish; abdomen in life clothed chiefly with white or light grey hair.

Chelicerae in length once and a fourth the height of the *face*.

First row of *eyes* much shorter than the second, strongly procurved, the dorsal edge of each lateral eye being ventrad of the centers of the middle ones; anterior median eyes not fully their radius apart, a little closer to the lateral eyes; anterior lateral eyes about three-fourths as large in diameter as the median. Anterior lateral eyes their diameter from anterior margin of clypeus. Eyes of second row some less than their diameter apart. Cephalothorax about 3.25 times as long as the quadrangle of posterior eyes.

Lower margin of furrow chelicerae armed with three teeth, of which

the first is commonly much reduced or sometimes wholly absent; the upper margin with three teeth as usual.

Legs rather long, the distal joints of posterior legs slender. Anterior tibiae armed beneath with the usual three pairs of spines, the relative lengths being much as in typical *Pardosas*; the distal pair short, the median and basal very long, their lengths being double the diameter of the joint and the proximal overlapping the median pair.

Epigynum short. The septum short and wide, showing clearly a division into a narrow median part and broad lateral alae. The posterior division of transverse arms relatively very broad, and the incisions from ends of arms extending acutely mesad between these broad divisions and the alar portion of septum. Openings of the spermatheca plainly showing. See Plate I, Fig. 1.

Length of cephalothorax 4.5 mm.; width, 2.5 mm.

Length of leg I, 12 mm.; tibia plus patella, 4 mm.; metatarsus, 2.5 mm.

Length of leg II, 10 mm.

Length of leg III, 9.7 mm.

Length of leg IV, 15 mm.; tibia plus patella, 4.7 mm.; metatarsus 4.1 mm.

*Male*.—Coloration nearly as in the female; the sternum more commonly with a row of three black dots near each lateral margin, one dot lying opposite the interval between each two coxae; the ground color of abdomen darker, of a more reddish cast, and the lateral dark bands more nearly solid for entire length.

Anterior legs with the tegument of femora, patellae, tibiae and metatarsi black, the patellae and tibiae and also part of the metatarsi also densely clothed with black hair that stands out in brush-like form.

For structure of palpal organ see Plate I, Fig. 2.

Length of cephalothorax, 3.3 mm.; width, 2.3 mm.

Length of leg I, 10 mm.; tibia plus patella, 3.5 mm.; metatarsus, 2.4 mm.

Length of leg II, 9 mm.

Length of leg III, 8.7 mm.

Length of leg IV, 15 mm.; tibia plus patella 4.1 mm.; metatarsus, 4 mm.

*Locality*.—Southern Nevada (Las Vegas).

Individuals of this species were observed in large numbers running across a footpath along a small stream at Las Vegas. They seemed especially active after sunset, coming forth at that time from concealment. At the date of observation (early June) both males and females were common. No females with egg-sacs were taken.